

Message Text

SECRET

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15

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 INR-07 CIAE-00

SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 L-03 EAE-00 AID-05 OMB-01 /052 W
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O R 031018Z SEP 75

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0686

INFO SECDEF WASHDC

JCS WASHDC

DIRNSA

CSAF WASHDC

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

COMUSMACHTAI BANGKOK TH

AMCONSUL UDORN

S E C R E T BANGKOK 18455

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, MPOL, MILI, TH

SUBJ: FORCE PLANNING: MANPOWER DRAWDOWN AND NKP CLOSURE

REF: CINCPAC PA LNO MSG. 020740Z SEP 75

SUMMARY: JOINT THAI/U.S. COORDINATING COMMITTEE MET SEPTEMBER
2 AND AGREED ON REDUCTION U.S. MILITARY MANPOWER SPACES IN THAILAND
TO 16,500 AND CLOSURE NKP BY OCTOBER 31, 1975. END SUMMARY

1. JOINT THAI/U.S. COORDINATING COMMITTEE MET SEPTEMBER 2
UNDER CO-CHAIRMANSHIP CHIEF OF STAFF, SUPREME COMMAND, GENERAL
KRIANGSAK CHAMANAN, AND COMUSMACHTAI, GENERAL ADERHOLT. MFA AND
EMBASSY OFFICIALS WERE ALSO PRESENT. IN PURSUIT AMBASSADOR'S
DISCUSSION WITH PRIME MINISTER OF AUGUST 28, COMMITTEE CONSULTED
AND AGREED ON REDUCTION OF 3,000 U.S. AUTHORIZED MILITARY MAN-
POWER SPACES, FROM CURRENT LEVEL OF 19,500 TO 16,500 BY OCTOBER
31, 1975, AND CLOSURE OF U.S. FACILITY AT NAKHON PHANOM ROYAL
THAI AIR FORCE BASE BY SAME DATE. COMMITTEE AGREED ON PRESS
STATEMENT (FOR TEXT SEE REFTEL) TO BE RELEASED BY RTG 1800 HOURS
SEPTEMBER 3 BANGKOK TIME AND BY U.S. AT ANY TIME THEREAFTER.

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2. DURING DISCUSSION, KRIANGSAK PRESSED FOR EARLY INFORMATION ON DISPOSITION OF OV-10 AIRCRAFT AND HELICOPTERS NOW AT NKP, ANTICIPATING INTENSE PRESS INTEREST. WE TOLD HIM WE WOULD PROVIDE INFORMATION AS SOON AS RECEIVED, AND ALERTED HIM THAT SOME OF AIRCRAFT MIGHT BE STAGED OUT OF COUNTRY INDIRECTLY THROUGH OTHER U.S. AIR BASES HERE.

3. KRIANGSAK HARKED BACK TO HIS LETTER TO ADERHOLT DATED MAY 28, 1975 (BANGKOK 19171, PARA 2) REQUESTING COMPLETE U.S. DRAWDOWN AND BASE CLOSURE PLANS. HE COMPLAINED THAT FAILURE TO PROVIDE THIS MADE IT DIFFICULT FOR THAI TO PLAN AND BUDGET FOR TAKEOVER OF U.S. FACILITIES. HE FORESAW THAT IN ABSENCE OF THAI PLANNING AND FUNDING, INADEQUATE SECURITY WOULD RESULT IN STRIPPING OF BASES AS HAD HAPPENED IN PAST. SINCE IT WOULD TAKE ONE YEAR TO BUDGET FOR THAI ASSUMPTION OF RESPONSIBILITIES, KRIANGSAK PROPOSED THAT U.S. AGREE TO PAY FOR THAI SECURITY GUARDS TO REMAIN AT BASES FOR ONE FULL YEAR AFTER DEPARTURE OF U.S. FORCES. IN RESPONSE TO QUESTION AS TO PURPOSE FOR WHICH BASES WERE TO BE SECURED, KRIANGSAK REPLIED THAT HIS MISSION WAS TO SECURE THEM FOR FUTURE USE, INITIALLY AS MILITARY BASES. U.S. SIDE GAVE KRIANGSAK NO ENCOURAGEMENT AS REGARDS U.S. SUPPORT FOR THAI MAINTENANCE OF BASES AFTER U.S. DEPARTURE. WE REMINDED HIM THAT SHORT-NOTICE BASE CLOSURES RESPONDED TO AN EDICT OF RTG ITSELF. IT WAS ALSO POINTED OUT TO HIM THAT MERE PRESENCE OF GUARDS PROVIDES NO PROTECTION AGAINST STRIPPING OF BASES THROUGH THEFT UNLESS BASES ARE ACTUALLY IN USE.

4. IN PRIVATE CONVERSATION AFTER MEETING ENDED AND MFA OFFICIALS DEPARTED, KRIANGSAK MADE CLEAR THAT HE IS OPPOSED TO CONVERSION OF BASES FOR INDUSTRIAL OR OTHER NON-MILITARY USE AND THINKS HE WILL BE BETTER ABLE TO STAVE THIS OFF IF U.S. PROVIDES ASSISTANCE IN MAINTAINING THEM AS MILITARY BASES. HE THOUGHT THIS MIGHT BE DONE THROUGH INCREASE IN U.S. MAP BY AMOUNT NECESSARY TO SECURE AND MAINTAIN BASES, WHICH COULD THEN BE PROVIDED OUT OF RTARF ORDINARY BUDGET. HE TOOK VIEW THAT MILITARY INSTALLATIONS COULD NOT COEXIST WITH COMMERCIAL ACTIVITIES. PRESENCE OF LATTER WOULD CREATE INSURMOUNTABLE SECURITY PROBLEMS, E.G., RE STORAGE OF ARMS AND AMMUNITION.

WHITEHOUSE

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

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